

WorkforceNews



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Central: Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne

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A Population Estimates Primer



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Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

Lecia Parks Langston
435-688-3115
lecialangston@utah.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released 2007 population estimates for Utah's cities and towns. You may have even noticed that many city officials disagreed vehemently with these estimates—because they believed the Census Bureau grossly underestimated their city's inhabitants. If you missed the release, check out the chart that accompanies this article.

When evaluating population "data," remember—with the exception of decennial census years (1990, 2000, 2010, etc.)—nobody is actually out there *counting* bodies. Hence we in the data police, describe the inter-census-year figures as what they truly are—*estimates*. And, this seems a particularly appropriate time to very briefly review how the estimates are produced.

True data junkies may have noticed that they can find two sources of state and

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See the wealth of information at our Employer Resource Center Web page: <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource>

A Population Estimates Primer

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county population estimates. Both the Census Bureau and the Utah Population Estimates Committee (UPEC) release intercensal population estimates for Utah and its counties.

UPEC's origins stretch back to 1955. The committee has always incorporated various parties with pertinent data and an interest in providing quality population estimates for the State of Utah. Currently the committee is housed within and staffed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. It includes members from various state agencies, the University of Utah, public utilities, and regional association of governments representatives.

Typically, the farther out from the most recent census year, the more these two estimates diverge. For example, back in 2001, the Census Bureau and Utah Population Estimates Committee differed by only 0.6 percent. But by 2007, the UPEC estimate measured 2-percent (or 54,000 residents) higher than the Census Bureau figure. On the county level, differences can be more or less pronounced. In 2007, population estimates for Cache County varied by only 0.1 percent but by almost 11 percent for Millard County!

Both use similar, but different methodologies. The Census Bureau and UPEC both use a "component of population change" method. This means they look at the change in births, deaths, and net-migration (people who moved-in minus people who moved out). In addition, both entities use administrative data—particularly registered births and deaths. However, they use different types of administrative data and techniques to estimate overall population change. The Census Bureau relies heavily on housing data. UPEC depends primarily on school enrollment data, membership information from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and income tax return data. UPEC also uses the judgment and special knowledge of its members when producing estimates. Which figure is best? Based on historical performance,

2007 City Population Estimates

Eureka	785	Juab County
Levan	835	
Mona	1,318	
Nephi	5,231	
Rocky Ridge	503	
Delta	3,143	Millard County
Fillmore	2,124	
Hinckley	701	
Holden	371	
Kanosh	468	
Leamington	204	
Lynndyl	120	
Meadow	236	Piute County
Oak City	596	
Scipio	287	
Circleville	463	
Junction	163	Sanpete County
Kingston	130	
Marysville	336	
Centerfield	1,068	
Ephraim	5,165	
Fairview	1,180	Sevier County
Fayette	206	
Fountain Green	954	
Gunnison	2,734	
Manti	3,232	
Mayfield	430	Wayne County
Moroni	1,294	
Mount Pleasant	2,744	
Spring City	1,018	
Sterling	255	
Wales	228	
Annabella	646	
Aurora	943	
Elsinore	737	
Glenwood	434	
Joseph	271	
Koosharem	289	
Monroe	1,834	
Redmond	801	
Richfield	7,119	
Salina	2,392	
Sigurd	428	
Bicknell	340	
Hanksville	200	
Loa	506	
Lyman	226	
Torrey	187	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

UPEC estimates seem to more accurately reflect Utah's state and county populations.

However, except in unusual cases (such as newly incorporated areas), UPEC does not turn out city/town level population estimates. In this case, data users must rely on the Census Bureau figures. However, keep in mind that when UPEC and Census Bureau county estimates differ dramatically, these disparities will also be reflected in the city-level estimates.

For more information about the population estimates process, see:

<http://www.governor.state.ut.us/dea/upec.html>

<http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/>.

County News

Juab County:

Juab County's slowdown in the construction industry continued to keep the county in job-loss territory during the first quarter of 2008. The old adage, what goes up must come down, comes to mind. Building sector jobs which once inflated Juab County's job counts have evaporated at the completion of the first phase of the power plant construction in Mona. Between March 2007 and March 2008, Juab County lost 400 construction positions. Overall, employment dropped by almost 9 percent and more than 300 positions. Fortunately, manufacturing, private education/health/social services, and the public sector joined to create enough jobs to offset some of the construction losses.

New construction seems unlikely to pick up any slack. Overall for the first five months of 2008, permit values are down 55 percent from the same period in 2007—despite a strong showing in the commercial sector.

Millard County:

After several months of year-over job losses, Millard County managed to end the first quarter in the black—but just barely. Between March 2007 and March 2008, the county netted roughly 30 new positions for a growth rate of less than 1 percent.

Industry-level job losers included wholesale trade, healthcare/social services, and other services. However, the decreases proved relatively small. Ditto for job-gaining industries—retail trade, government, and professional business services.

On the bright side, Millard County continues to buck the state and national trends when it comes to construction activity. For the first five months of 2008, permitted construction values doubled the 2007 figures. Even residential permitting has improved.

Piute County:

In March 2008, Piute County ended its two-year employment expansion spree. In comparison with March 2007, employment dropped about 2 percent. Of course, Piute County does have a small population and labor market. That 2-percent decline translates into only six jobs.

Overall, there just wasn't much employment change at the industry level. Two exceptions stand out. The leisure/hospitality industry (tourism) lost a significant number of jobs, and wholesale trade picked up employment—just not quite enough to totally offset the aforementioned losses.

Sanpete County:

During the first quarter of 2008, a wispy cloud crossed the sunshine that has been bathing the Sanpete County economy. Job growth peaked at 7 percent in mid-2007 only to ease back slowly through the rest of the year. By March of 2008, the county's rate of employment expansion measured only 2 percent (an increase of roughly 150 jobs). However, the county continues to create employment at the same time the national job-creation machine has ground to a virtual halt.

Employment performance at the industry level proved nothing less than a mishmash of percent changes. No one industry added a lot of jobs. No one industry lost a lot of jobs. However, lots of industries added or lost a few jobs. Industries showing noticeable employment declines included construction, transportation/warehousing, financial activities, leisure/hospitality services, and other services. Industries with employment gains included manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, professional/business services, private educational/health/social services, and government.

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Workforce Development = Economic Development

Partnerships in Action

In recent years, the Department of Workforce Services has successfully partnered with industry and education in workforce development activities and building talent pipeline initiatives. These partnerships have resulted in millions of federal dollars being brought into Utah to train current and future workers in some of Utah's fast growing industries such as advanced composites, mechatronics, biotechnology, biomanufacturing, healthcare, and energy.

New and expanding education and training programs resulting from recent partnerships include:

Composites Materials Technology

Davis Applied Technology College

Partners: ATK Space Systems, Hexcel, EDO Fiber Science, Radius Engineering, Technology Marketing, TCB Composites Company, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), Davis School District, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Southern Utah University, Weber State University, Hill Air Force Base and LDS Employment Resource Services

Mechatronics

Utah Valley University

Partners: IM Flash Technologies, Setpoint Systems Inc, Utah Manufacturing Assn., Utah County Academy of Sciences and the Provo, Alpine, Wasatch, Park City, North Summit, Nebo and South Summit School Districts

Biotechnology/Life Sciences

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Partners: ZARS, Merit Medical, Cephalon, ARUP, Pharmanex, Utah Clusters Team, Utah Science, Technology, Research Initiative, Utah Centers of Excellence, U of U, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, SLCC, Utah Technology Commission, Utah Technology Advisory Council, Utah Life Science Assn, Utah Women in Technology, Intermountain Biomedical Assn, Utah Medical Manufacturing Assn, Utah Natural Products Assn, InnovaBio, National Foundation, US Army Dugway Proving Grounds, Idaho Technology, the Leonardo and the Governor's Office of Economic Development



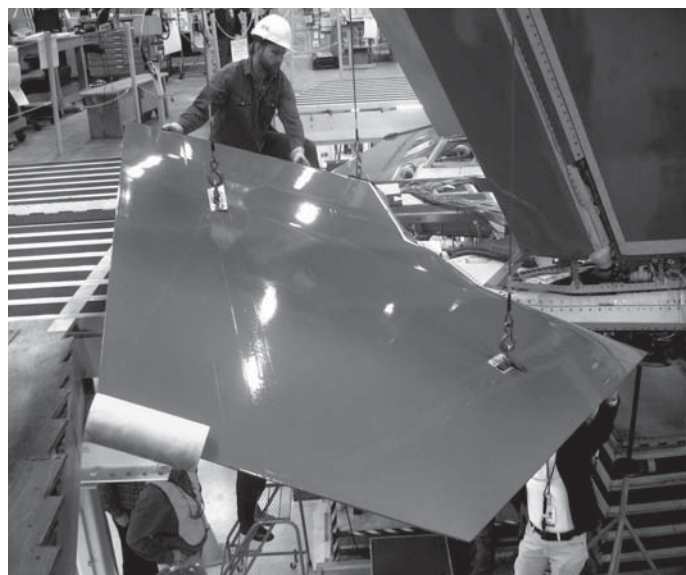
Biomanufacturing

Salt Lake Community College

Granite Technical Institute

Partners: ZARS, Cephalon Utah Natural Product Alliance, Utah Technology Commission and Utah Biomedical Assn.

A trained workforce is the key to continued economic growth in Utah. Many opportunities exist for business to partner with education to provide and upgrade the skills of Utah's workforce that will take us into the 21st Century. For additional information or to become a partner, contact: Lynn Purdin, 801 526-9755, lpurdin@utah.gov, or Melisa Stark, 801 776-7240, mstark@utah.gov.



Don't count on construction activity to buoy up those numbers. Approved construction permit values for the first five months of the year dropped almost one-third compared to the same time period in the previous year. Sanpete County, like most of the rest of the country, saw a decided decline in residential building permitting.

Sevier County:

Like many of its neighbors, Sevier County experienced slowing job growth in the first quarter of 2008. Between March 2007 and March 2008, Sevier County's nonfarm employment base grew by only 1.4 percent—just more 110 jobs. As recently as the first quarter of 2007, Sevier County was generating robust job growth rates of almost 5 percent.

In March, retail trade stood head and shoulders above the pack in the number of new jobs created. Professional/business services and mining also added positions. And while construction employment took a nosedive in most areas, Sevier County's construction industry employment increased by 6 percent. Other industries put a drag on the economy by losing jobs—manufacturing, transportation/warehousing, and accommodations all showed notable employment losses.

On the construction front, Sevier County also followed the general trend with a 58-percent decrease in permit values for the first five months of 2008.

Wayne County:

Wayne County also followed the pack with slower job growth in the first three months of 2008. Between March 2007 and March 2008, Wayne County's nonfarm jobs increased by 25 positions—a 2.6-percent increase. This moderate gain was generated by employment creation in the public sector and construction. There was a slight loss in private education/health/social services jobs, but not enough to offset other gains. In addition, the county's construction permitting activity is down significantly suggesting fewer building jobs in the months ahead.

For more information about these counties, go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

What's Up?

✦ Operators of Moroni Feed Co., an owner of the Norbest turkey brand, plan to temporarily suspend operations and lay off workers in December. As many as 675 workers may be let go. The layoffs will affect Sevier and Juab counties, but Sanpete County will be hurt most. The company hopes to be back in full swing by March 2009.

-*The Deseret News/The Salt Lake Tribune*

✦ The Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board approved \$400,000 for a project to integrate emergency response among seven law enforcement agencies in Sevier, Wayne and Piute counties. Sevier County, Richfield City and Salina City will have to contribute \$43,000 in matching funds for the system upgrade.

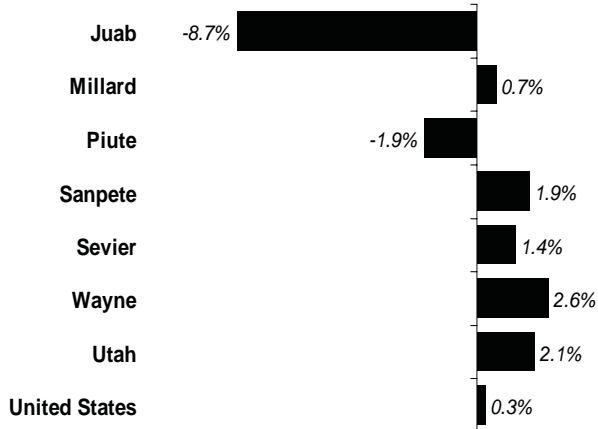
-*The Richfield Reaper*

Check it Out

New wage data
just released!

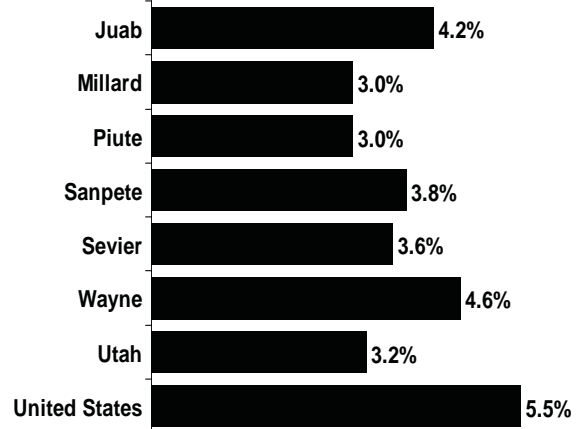
See it on jobs.utah.gov/wi
click on the blue UEDV icon
then click on Utah Occupational Wages

Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs March 2007 to March 2008



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates June 2008



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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